

C4 changes may be made by those skilled in the art without changing the essential characteristics and the basic concepts of the invention.

IN THE CLAIMS:

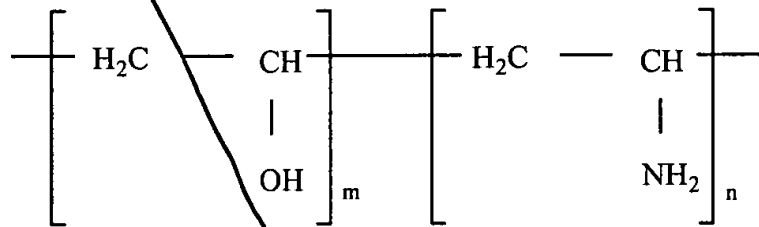
Please amend claims 1-5 and 26-28, and add new claims 29-33, as follows:

SR
C5
1. (Twice Amended) An adhesive composition comprising an organic polymer having in the polymer backbone amine groups selected from the group consisting of primary and secondary amine groups and mixtures thereof and a crosslinking agent for crosslinking the polymer to a fibrous web, said agent being selected from zirconium compounds wherein the zirconium has a valence of plus four.

Sub F1
C6
2. (Twice Amended) An adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the organic polymer is selected from the group consisting of chitosan, polyvinylamine, polyvinyl alcohol-vinyl amine and polyaminoamide.

Sub F1
C7
3. (Once Amended) An adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 characterized in that the crosslinking agent is a zirconium compound selected from the group consisting of ammonium zirconium carbonate, zirconium acetylacetonate, zirconium acetate, zirconium carbonate, zirconium sulfate, zirconium phosphate, potassium zirconium carbonate, zirconium sodium phosphate and sodium zirconium tartarate.

C8
Sub F1
4. (Twice Amended) An adhesive composition as claimed in claim 3 characterized in that the organic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol-vinyl amine copolymers of the following structure:



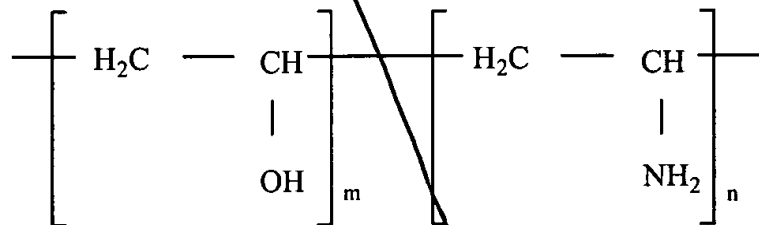
wherein m and n have values of 1 to 99 and 99 to 1 respectively.

Sub F1 C9

5. (Once Amended) The adhesive composition of claim 4 wherein m and n have values of 1 to 99 and 2 to 20 respectively.

26. (Once Amended) The adhesive composition of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the crosslinking agent is ammonium zirconium carbonate.

27. (Once Amended) An adhesive composition as claimed in claim 26 characterized in that the organic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol-vinyl amine copolymers of the following structure:



wherein m and n have values of 1 to 99 and 99 to 1 respectively.

Sub F1 C11

28. (Once Amended) The adhesive composition of claim 27 wherein m and n have values of 1 to 99 and 2 to 20 respectively.

Sub F1 C12

29. An adhesive composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the organic polymer is dissolved in water to create a solution, wherein the solution has a liquid component and a solid component and the liquid component is about 90 to about 99% by weight of said solution.